

District Policy

3222- EVALUATION OF TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS, EXCLUDING TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS (M)

Section: Teaching Staff Members
Date Created: February, 2007
Date Edited: January, 2015

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The Board of Education recognizes the importance of teaching staff member effectiveness to further the development of a professional corps of educators and to increase student achievement. The Board of Education adopts Policy and Regulation 3222 for the evaluation of teaching staff members consistent with the Teacher Effectiveness and Accountability for the Children of New Jersey Act (TEACHNJ) and the AchieveNJ administrative codes. This Policy and Regulation provides the provisions and requirements for teaching staff member evaluations consistent with TEACHNJ and AchieveNJ.

For the purposes of Policy and Regulation 3222, “teaching staff member” includes, but is not limited to, educational services staff members, guidance counselors, school nurses, library/media specialists, occupational therapists, and other teaching staff members working under an educational services certificate. For the purposes of Policy and Regulation 3222, “teaching staff member” does not include teachers, Principals, Vice Principals, Assistant Principals, and administrators, including, but not limited to, directors and/or supervisors.

The rules in N.J.A.C. 6A:10 – Educator Effectiveness shall not override any conflicting provision(s) of collective bargaining agreements or other employment contracts in effect on July 1, 2013 and no collective bargaining agreement entered into after July 1, 2013, shall conflict with the educator evaluation system established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. or any other specific statute or regulation, nor shall topics subject to bargaining involve matters of educational policy or managerial prerogatives. All information contained in written performance reports and all information collected, compiled, and/or maintained by employees for the evaluation process pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall be confidential and shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

The Board shall annually adopt evaluation rubrics for teaching staff members which shall be submitted to the Commissioner by June 1 for approval by August 1 of each year. The evaluation rubrics shall have four defined annual ratings: ineffective, partially effective, effective, and highly effective. The Board shall meet the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2(a) for the annual evaluation of teaching staff members and shall ensure the training procedures as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2(b) are followed when implementing the evaluation rubrics for all teaching staff members. A District Evaluation Advisory Committee shall be established in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3.

The minimum requirements for the evaluation procedures for teaching staff members as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4 shall be followed. For each teaching staff member rated ineffective or partially effective on the annual summative evaluation rating, as measured by the evaluation rubrics, a corrective action plan shall be developed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5.

Observations and evaluations for nontenured teaching staff members shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1. Evaluations for nontenured teaching staff members shall be completed prior to the May 15 notice requirement date for continued employment. Evaluations for tenured teaching staff members shall be completed prior to June 30.

The Superintendent shall annually notify all teaching staff members of the adopted evaluation policies and procedures/regulations no later than October 1. If a teaching staff member is hired after October 1, the Superintendent shall notify the teaching staff member of the policies and procedures/regulations at the beginning of his or her employment. All teaching staff members shall be notified of amendments to the policy and procedures/regulations within ten teaching staff member working days of adoption.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-117 et seq.; N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1
N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 through 1.4; 6A:10-2.1 through 2.5

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A. Definitions – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.2

The following words and terms shall have the following meanings when used in Policy and Regulation 3222 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Announced observation” means the person conducting an evaluation for the purpose of evaluation will notify the teaching staff member of the date and the time period the observation will be conducted.

“Annual performance report” means a written appraisal of the teaching staff member's performance prepared by the teaching staff member's supervisor based on the evaluation rubric for his or her position.

“Annual summative evaluation rating” means an annual evaluation rating that is based on appraisals of educator practice and student performance, if applicable, and includes all measures captured in a teaching staff member's evaluation rubric. The four summative performance categories are ineffective, partially effective, effective, and highly effective.

“Chief School Administrator” means the Superintendent of Schools or the Administrative Principal if there is no Superintendent.

“Commissioner” means Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education.

“Corrective Action Plan” means a written plan developed by a teaching staff member serving in a supervisory capacity in collaboration with the teaching staff member to address deficiencies as outlined in an evaluation. The corrective action plan shall include timelines for corrective action, responsibilities of the individual teaching staff member and the school district for implementing the plan, and specific support that the district shall provide.

“Department” means the New Jersey Department of Education.

“District Evaluation Advisory Committee” means a group created to oversee and guide the planning and implementation of the Board of Education's evaluation policies and procedures as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3.

“Educator practice instrument” means an assessment tool that provides: scales or dimensions that capture competencies of professional performance; and differentiation of a range of professional performance as described by the scales, which must be shown in practice and/or research studies. The scores from the educator practice instrument may be components of the teaching staff member's evaluation rubrics and the scores may be included in the summative evaluation rating for the individual.

“Evaluation” means an appraisal of an individual's professional performance in relation to his or her job description, professional standards, and Statewide evaluation criteria that incorporates analysis of multiple measures of student achievement or growth, as applicable, and multiple data sources.

“Evaluation rubrics” means a set of criteria, measures, and processes used to evaluate all teaching staff members in a specific school district or local education agency. Evaluation rubrics consist of measures of professional practice, based on educator practice

instruments and student outcomes. Each Board of Education will have an evaluation rubric specifically for teachers, another specifically for Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals, and evaluation rubrics for other categories of teaching staff members.

“Indicators of student progress and growth” means the results of assessment(s) of students as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:8, Standards and Assessment.

“Individual professional development plan” means a written statement of goals developed by a teaching staff member serving in a supervisory capacity in collaboration with a teaching staff member, that: aligns with professional standards for teachers set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-3.3 and the New Jersey Professional Development Standards; derives from the annual evaluation process; identifies professional goals that address specific individual, district or school needs, or both; and grounds professional development activities in objectives related to improving teaching, learning, and student achievement. The individual professional development plan shall include timelines for implementation, responsibilities of the employee and the school district for implementing the plan, and specific support and periodic feedback that the district shall provide.

“Job description” means a written specification of the function of a position, duties and responsibilities, the extent and limits of authority, and work relationships within and outside the school and school district.

“Observation” means a method of collecting data on the performance of a teaching staff member's assigned duties and responsibilities. An observation for the purpose of evaluation will be included in the determination of the annual summative evaluation rating and shall be conducted by an individual employed in the school district in a supervisory role and capacity and possessing a school administrator, Principal, or supervisor endorsement as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-1.1.

“Post-observation conference” means a meeting, either in-person or remotely, between a supervisor who conducted the observation and the teaching staff member for the purpose of evaluation to discuss the data collected in the observation.

“Scoring guide” means a set of rules or criteria used to evaluate a performance, product, or project. The purpose of a scoring guide is to provide a transparent and reliable evaluation process. Educator practice instruments include a scoring guide that an evaluator uses to structure his or her assessments and ratings of professional practice.

“Signed” means the name of one physically written by oneself or an electronic code, sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

“Student growth objective” is an academic goal that teaching staff members and evaluators may set for groups of students.

“Superintendent” means Superintendent of Schools or Chief School Administrator.

“Supervisor” means an appropriately certified teaching staff member, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1, employed in the school district in a supervisory role and capacity, and possessing a school administrator, Principal, or supervisor endorsement as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-1.1.

“Teaching staff member” means a member of the professional staff of any district or regional Board of Education, or any county vocational school district Board of Education, holding office, position, or employment of such character that the qualifications for such office, position, or employment require him or her to hold a valid, effective, and appropriate standard, provisional, or emergency certificate issued by the State Board of Examiners. Teaching staff members include the positions of school nurse and school athletic trainer. There are three different types of certificates that teaching staff members work under:

1. An instructional certificate (holders of this certificate are referred to in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. as “teachers”);
2. Administrative certificate; and
3. Educational services certificate.

For the purposes of Policy 3222 and this Regulation, “teaching staff member” includes, but is not limited to, educational services staff members, guidance counselors, school nurses, library/media specialists, occupational therapists, and other teaching staff members working under an educational services certificate and does not include teachers, Principals, Vice Principals, Assistant Principals, and administrators, including, but not limited to, Directors and/or Supervisors.

“Unannounced observation” means the person conducting an observation for the purpose of evaluation will not notify the teaching staff member of the date or time the observation will be conducted.

B. Applicability of Rules on Collective Bargaining Agreements – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.3

The rules in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall not override any conflicting provision(s) of collective bargaining agreements or other employment contracts entered into by a school district in effect on July 1, 2013. No collective bargaining agreement entered into after July 1, 2013, shall conflict with the educator evaluation system established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. or any other specific statute or regulation, nor shall topics subject to bargaining involve matters of educational policy or managerial prerogatives.

C. Educator Evaluation Data, Information, and Written Reports – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.4

All information contained in written performance reports and all information collected, compiled, and/or maintained by employees of the Board of Education for the purposes of conducting the educator evaluation process pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall be confidential. Such information shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. Nothing contained in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall be construed to prohibit the Department from, at its discretion, collecting evaluation data pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123.e or distributing aggregate statistics regarding evaluation data.

D. Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1

1. The Board of Education annually shall adopt evaluation rubrics for all teaching staff members. The evaluation rubrics shall have four defined annual ratings: ineffective, partially effective, effective, and highly effective.
2. Evaluation rubrics shall be submitted to the Commissioner by June 1 for approval by August 1 of each year.

E. Duties of the Board of Education – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2

1. The Board of Education shall meet the following requirements for the annual evaluation of teaching staff members, unless otherwise specified:
 - a. Establish a District Evaluation Advisory Committee to oversee and guide the planning and implementation of the Board of Education's evaluation policies and procedures as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq.
 - b. Annually adopt policies and procedures developed by the Superintendent pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4, including the evaluation rubrics approved by the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1(c).
 - c. Ensure the Superintendent annually notifies all teaching staff members of the adopted evaluation policies and procedures no later than October 1. If a teaching staff member is hired after October 1, the Board/Superintendent shall notify the teaching staff member of the policies and procedures at the beginning of his or her employment. All teaching staff members shall be notified of amendments to the policy and procedures within ten teaching staff member working days of adoption.
 - d. Annually adopt by June 1, any Commissioner-approved educator practice instruments and, as part of the process described at N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1(c), notify the Department which instruments will be used as part of the school district's evaluation rubrics.
 - e. Ensure the Principal of each school within the school district has established a School Improvement Panel pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.1. The panel shall be

established annually by August 31 and shall carry out the duties and functions described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.2.

- f. Ensure data elements are collected from the implementation of the educator practice instrument and store the data in an accessible and usable format. Data elements shall include, but not be limited to, scores or evidence from observations for the purpose of evaluation.
 - g. Ensure each Principal in the district certifies any observer who conducts an observation of a teaching staff member for the purpose of evaluation as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4(h); N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4; and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.4, shall meet the statutory observation requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-119; 18A:6-123.b(8); and N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1 and the teacher member of the School Improvement Panel requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.2.
2. The Board of Education shall ensure the following training procedures are followed when implementing the evaluation rubric for all teaching staff members and, when applicable, applying the Commissioner-approved educator practice instruments:
- a. Annually provide training on and descriptions of each component of the evaluation rubric for all teaching staff members who are being evaluated in the school district and provide more thorough training for any teaching staff member who is being evaluated for the first time. Training shall include detailed descriptions of all evaluation rubric components including, when applicable, detailed descriptions of student achievement measures and all aspects of the educator practice instruments;
 - b. The Superintendent may be required to annually certify to the Department that all supervisors of teaching staff members in the school district who are utilizing educator practice instruments have completed training on the instrument and its application and have demonstrated competency in applying the educator practice instruments.

F. District Evaluation Advisory Committee – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3

1. Members of the District Evaluation Advisory Committee shall include representation from the following groups: teachers from each school level represented in the school district; central office administrators overseeing the teacher evaluation process; supervisors involved in teacher evaluation, when available or appropriate; and administrators conducting evaluations, including a minimum of one administrator conducting evaluations who participates on a School Improvement Panel. Members also shall include the Superintendent, a special education administrator, a parent, and a member of the Board of Education.
2. The Superintendent may extend membership on the District Evaluation Advisory Committee to representatives of other groups.

3. Beginning in 2017-2018, the District Evaluation Advisory Committees shall no longer be required and the Board of Education shall have the discretion to continue the District's Evaluation Advisory Committee.

G. Evaluation Procedures for Teaching Staff Members – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4

1. The provisions outlined in Policy and Regulation 3222 and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4 shall be the minimum requirements for the evaluation procedures for teaching staff members.
2. Evaluation policies and procedures requiring the annual evaluation of all teaching staff members shall be developed under the direction of the Superintendent, who may consult with the District Evaluation Advisory Committee or representatives from School Improvement Panels, and shall include, but not be limited to, a description of:
 - a. Evaluation rubrics for all teaching staff members;
 - b. Roles and responsibilities for implementation of evaluation policies and procedures;
 - c. Job descriptions and applicable evaluation criteria based upon school district goals, student achievement, instructional priorities, and the evaluation regulations set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10 et seq.;
 - d. Methods of data collection and reporting appropriate to each job description, including, but not limited to, the processes for observations for the purpose of evaluation and post-observation conference(s) by the teaching staff member's supervisor, or his or her designee;
 - e. The process for preparation of individual professional development plans; and
 - f. The process for preparation of an annual written performance report by the teaching staff member's supervisor or designee, and an annual summary conference between the teaching staff member and his or her supervisor, or the supervisor's designee.
3. The annual summary conference between the supervisor and the teaching staff member shall be held before the written performance report is filed. The conference shall include, but not be limited to, a review of the following:
 - a. The performance of the teaching staff member based upon the job description and, when applicable, the scores or evidence compiled using the teaching staff member's evaluation rubric, which may include the educator practice instrument;

- b. The progress of the teaching staff member toward meeting the objectives of the individual professional development plan or, when applicable, the corrective action plan;
 - c. Available indicators or scores of student achievement or growth, when applicable, such as student growth objective scores and student growth percentile scores; and
 - d. The preliminary annual written performance report.
4. If any scores for the teaching staff member's evaluation rubric are not available at the time of the annual summary conference due to pending assessment results, the annual summative evaluation rating shall be calculated once all component ratings are available.
5. The annual written performance report shall be prepared by the teaching staff member's supervisor and shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. A summative rating based on the evaluation rubric;
 - b. Performance area(s) of strength and area(s) needing improvement based upon the job description, observations for the purpose of evaluation and, when applicable, the educator practice instrument;
 - c. An individual professional development plan developed by the supervisor and the teaching staff member or, when applicable, a corrective action plan from the evaluation year being reviewed in the report; and
 - d. A summary of student achievement or growth indicators, when applicable.
6. The teaching staff member and the preparer of the annual written performance report shall sign the report within five teaching staff member working days of the review.
7. The annual summary conference and annual written performance report shall be completed prior to June 30.
8. The Board of Education shall add all written performance reports and supporting data, including, but not limited to, indicators of student progress and growth for a teaching staff member, if applicable as part of his or her personnel file. The records shall be confidential and shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

H. Corrective Action Plans for Teaching Staff Members – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5

1. For each teaching staff member rated ineffective or partially effective on the annual summative evaluation, as measured by the evaluation rubrics, a corrective action plan shall be developed by the teaching staff member and the Superintendent or the teaching staff member's supervisor.

2. If the summative evaluation rating is calculated before the end of the school year, then the corrective action plan shall be developed and the teaching staff member and his or her supervisor shall meet to discuss the corrective action plan prior to September 15 of the following school year. The conference to develop and discuss the corrective action plan may be combined with the teaching staff member's annual summary conference that occurs at the end of the year of evaluation.
3. If the ineffective or partially effective summative evaluation rating is received after the start of the school year following the year of evaluation, then a corrective action plan must be developed, and the teaching staff member and his or her supervisor shall meet to discuss the corrective action plan within fifteen teaching staff member working days following the school district's receipt of the teaching staff member's summative rating.
4. The content of the corrective action plan shall replace the content of the individual professional development plan required in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.4(c) and 15.7(c) until the next annual summary conference.
5. The content of the corrective action plan shall:
 - a. Address areas in need of improvement identified in the teaching staff member evaluation rubric;
 - b. Include specific, demonstrable goals for improvement;
 - c. Include responsibilities of the evaluated employee and the school district for the plan's implementation; and
 - d. Include timelines for meeting the goal(s).
6. The teaching staff member's supervisor, or his or her designee, and the teaching staff member on a corrective action plan shall discuss the teaching staff member's progress toward the goals outlined in the corrective action plan during each post-observation conference.
7. Progress toward the teaching staff member's goals outlined in the corrective action plan, and data and evidence collected by the supervisor and/or the teaching staff member to determine progress between the time the corrective action plan began and the next annual summary conference, shall be documented in the teaching staff member's personnel file and reviewed at the annual summary conference.
8. Progress toward the teaching staff member's goals outlined in the corrective action plan may be used as evidence in the teaching staff member's next annual summative evaluation; however, such progress shall not guarantee an effective rating on the next summative evaluation.

9. Responsibilities of the evaluated teaching staff member on a corrective action plan shall not be exclusionary of other plans for improvement determined to be necessary by the teaching staff member's supervisor.

I. Teaching Staff Member Observations and Evaluations

1. The Superintendent shall determine the duration of observations required for nontenured teaching staff members pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1.
2. Each nontenured teaching staff member shall be observed and evaluated in the performance of his or her duties at least three times during each school year, but not less than once during each semester.
3. Each tenured teaching staff member shall be observed and evaluated in the performance of his or her duties at least once each school year. The Superintendent shall determine the duration of observations.
4. Observations include, but are not limited to, observations of meetings, student instruction, parent conferences, and a case-study analysis of a significant student issue.
5. Each observation shall be followed within fifteen teaching staff member working days by a conference between the administrator or supervisor staff member who made the observation and written evaluation and the teaching staff member.
6. The required observations for the purposes of the annual evaluation for nontenured teaching staff members shall take place before April 30 each year. These observations may cover that period between April 30 of one year and April 30 of the succeeding year excepting in the case of the first year of employment where the three observations must have been completed prior to April 30.
7. The number of required observations and the annual evaluation for nontenured teaching staff members may be reduced proportionately when an individual teaching staff member's term of service is less than one academic year.
8. Evaluations for nontenured teaching staff members shall be completed prior to May 15.
9. Evaluations for tenured teaching staff shall be completed prior to June 30.
10. Each evaluation of nontenured and tenured teaching staff members shall be followed by a conference between that teaching staff member and the administrative or supervisory staff member who has made the observation and written evaluation. Both parties to such a conference shall sign the written evaluation report and each shall retain a copy for his or her records. The purpose of this procedure is to recommend as to reemployment, identify any deficiencies, extend assistance for correction, and improve professional competence.

11. The teaching staff member may submit his or her written objection(s) of the evaluation within ten teaching staff member working days following the conference. The objection(s) shall be attached to each party's copy of the annual written performance report.

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